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Claims

1. A method of determining the propagation delay over a router controlled IP network intended to provide a segment of a telephone circuit for carrying information between at least two subscriber terminals, the method comprising:

reacting to a request for a telephone circuit between said two subscribers by transmitting a voice packet containing an echo request message over the router controlled IP network from a first network node to a second network node;

reacting to receipt of the echo request message at the second network node by transmitting a voice packet containing an echo reply message over the router controlled IP network from the second network node to the first network node; and

and determining the round trip propagation delay for the router controlled IP network segment on the basis of the time which elapses between sending the echo request message from the first node and receiving the echo reply message also at the first node.

2. A method according to claim 1 and comprising determining the propagation delay for the router controlled IP network segment prior to the sending of an Initial Address Message (IAM) over the router controlled IP network segment.

3. A method according to claim 2 and comprising appending or adding the determined round trip delay to delays determined for preceding circuit segments and defined in the IAM, for transmission over the router controlled IP network.

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4. Apparatus for determining the propagation delay over a router controlled IP network intended to provide a segment of a telephone circuit for carrying information between at least two subscriber terminals, the apparatus comprising:

a first router controlled IP network node coupled between a first subscriber and the router controlled IP network and arranged to react to a request for a telephone circuit between said two subscribers by transmitting a voice packet containing an echo request message over the router controlled IP network to a second router controlled IP network node;

the second node being arranged to react to receipt of the echo request message by transmitting a voice packet containing an echo reply message over the router controlled IP network to the first network node; and

processing means associated with the first network node arranged to determine the round trip propagation delay for the router controlled IP network segment on the basis of the time which elapses between sending the echo request message from the first node and receiving the echo reply message also at the first node.